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FACT SHEET

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One-Day or One-Trial Jury Service

Statewide implementation of one-day or one-trial jury service is one of the key reforms in the courts' ongoing efforts to improve jury service in California.

How It Works

Under the one-day or one-trial system, prospective jurors need appear for only one day unless they are selected for a trial. At some courts, those summoned may need only to telephone the court or visit a Web site to determine if they must appear at court. If they are not chosen for a trial or assigned to jury selection on the first day of their scheduled service, they have satisfied their obligation for a year. If selected for a jury, service in that trial satisfies the juror's obligation for at least one year.

History

In May 1999 the Judicial Council adopted rule 861 of the California Rules of Court, which enacted the one-day or one-trial policy in state courts effective July 1, 1999. At the time the rule was adopted, more than 20 superior courts in California's 58 counties reported they had already adopted a one-day or one-trial system. By May 2002, with the successful implementation of one-day or one-trial jury service at the Superior Court of Los Angeles, the new system was statewide. (The Superior Court of Alpine County requested and was granted an exemption due to the small size of its jury pool.)

Benefits for Employees and Employers

The one-day or one-trial system takes the waiting out of jury duty. Before the system was enacted, prospective jurors had to be available for up to 10 days in some counties. Now, potential jurors need to report for only one day to find out whether they are being called to serve.

For employers, this system reduces unproductive waiting time and the potential for lost income. The system also reduces uncertainty about when and for how long employees will be unavailable for work.

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California Juror Web Site

For more information on the one-day or one-trial jury system, visit the Juror Information section of the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jury/.

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